



super soul
LIFE LESSONS

NEW COVENANT M.B. CHURCH

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021



The **Joy**
of CHRISTMAS

CELEBRATE THE SEASON



ALL OF GOD'S GRACE IN ONE SOFT LITTLE FACE



Janet Edmondson – December 10

Deacon Louis Allen – December 11

Cristal Clay – December 12

Each birthday is a gift from God
Enjoy the Gift.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY

For the past two months, I have been giving you information concerning spiritual gifts. I mentioned that this month I would attach a “Spiritual Gifts Survey”.

I have attached this survey for those who wish to take it. This is strictly for your own personal use. The survey is self-explanatory.

Because there are many spiritual gifts, some of the spiritual gifts mentioned in this survey may not have been cited by me. This is just an instrument that, hopefully, will help you to better determine what your spiritual gift(s) might be.

Ask God to help you know how He has gifted you for service and how you can begin to use this gift in ministry to others.

DECEMBER SSSL TEACHERS

DATE	IN PERSON	ZOOM
5	Rev. Timothy James	Brenda Bryant
12	Rev. William Brown	Kimberly McNeal
19	Mattie Rogers	Dea. Lloyd Hervey
26	Bertrice Hall	Dea. Darryl Davis

SSSL ANNOUNCEMENT

In a continuing effort to strengthen the effectiveness of our christian educational arm of the Church, the youth SSSL now has a coordinator, Sis. Tracey Coutee. As a valuable resource, she will serve as a liaison between the teachers and Superintendent of SSSL, help with the recruitment process of new teachers, dissemination of literature, and promote an enjoyable learning experience for teachers and students. Congratulations and thank you for your service Sis. Coutee.



The Best Gifts to Give the Savior

The only thing these gifts will cost you is a changed heart!

If you could only give one gift to Jesus Christ this Christmas, what would it be? What kind of gift would He want? Jesus said, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" Mark 8:34. Our Savior wants us to come unto Him, to repent, and be cleansed through His atonement that we may live with Him and our Heavenly Father for all eternity. The very best gift we could give to Jesus Christ would be to change a part of ourselves that is not in harmony with Christ's teachings. Here is a list of ten gifts we could give to our Savior.

- 1. Have a Humble Heart** – It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to give of ourselves unless we first have a humble heart. It takes humility to change ourselves, and unless we recognize our own nothingness it will be very hard to give a true gift of ourselves to our Savior. If you find yourself struggling to give up a sin or weakness, or lack a strong enough desire or motivation to truly give of yourself then turning to the Lord and asking for humility might be the right gift for you to give at this time.
- 2. Repent of a Sin or Weakness** – When we are sufficiently humble it is easier to accept that we have sins and weaknesses we need to repent of. What sin or weakness have you justified for too long? What of all your sins would be the greatest gift you could give to Jesus by giving it up? Repentance is usually a process, but unless we take the first step to repent and start walking down the straight and narrow path we will continue to go in circles on the cycle of sin and wickedness.
- 3. Serve Others** – To serve God is to serve others and the gift of serving others is one of the greatest gifts we can give to our Savior, Jesus Christ. He taught that: "Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me." As we put forth the time and effort it takes to serve others, we are really putting that time and effort into serving our Lord.

4. Pray with Sincerity – If you are new to prayer or have not prayed in a long time then perhaps the gift of prayer would be the perfect gift to give Christ. From the Bible dictionary on prayer: As soon as we learn the true relationship in which we stand toward God (namely, God is our Father, and we are his children), then at once prayer becomes natural and instinctive on our part (Matt. 7: 7-11). Many of the so-called difficulties about prayer arise from forgetting this relationship. If you already pray on a regular basis then choosing to pray with more sincerity and real intent might be the perfect gift for you to give to the Savior.

5. Study the Scriptures Daily – The scriptures, as the Word of God, are one of the greatest ways we can know what God would have us do. If we were to give a gift to the Savior, wouldn't He want us to read His words and keep His commandments? If you do not regularly study the Word of God then now is the right time to give the gift of regular scripture study to the Savior, Jesus Christ. We are also taught that the Word of God can be compared to planting a seed within our heart.

6. Make a Goal and Keep It – If you have worked and worked to give of yourself to the Savior in a specific area but have struggled to achieve your goal then maybe making and achieving your goal *once and for all* would be the perfect gift for you to focus on at this time. Jesus Christ loves you, He suffered for you, He died for you, and He wants you to be happy. If there is something in your life that is keeping you from experiencing a fullness of joy then now is the time to turn your life over to the Lord and accept His help in making and achieving your goals because they are His goals too.

7. Have Faith During Trials – Having faith in Jesus Christ during the serious trials of life can sometimes be very difficult for us to do. If you are struggling with a trial right now then making the choice to trust the Lord would be a wonderful gift to give the Savior. We often need help in giving Christ the gift of faith, especially during our trials, so do not miss these resources in overcoming adversity including how to deal with stress, have hope, and fortify oneself by putting on the armor of God.

8. Become a Lifetime Learner – Continually gaining knowledge as a lifetime learner is one of those Christlike attributes that we need to develop

throughout our lives and makes an excellent gift we can give our Savior. If we stop learning we will stop progressing. If we have stopped learning about God, His plan, and His will, then now is the perfect time to repent and start again by choosing to become a lifetime learner. If you choose to give Christ the gift of continually gaining knowledge start by learning how to personally apply the truth and how to prepare for personal revelation.

9. Gain a Testimony of a Gospel Principle - Another great gift we can give to the Savior is to gain a testimony of a gospel principle, meaning we come to know for ourselves that something is true. To gain a testimony, we must first trust the Lord and put our faith in Him by believing in what we have been taught and then acting upon it. As James taught, "faith without works is dead," (James 2:26), we must also exercise our faith by acting in faith if we are to come to know that something is true.

10. Give Thanks to God in All Things - One of the most important gifts we should give to our Savior is our gratitude. We should give thanks to God for all that He has done (and continues to do) for us because everything we are, everything we have, and everything we will be and have in the future all comes from Him.

Giving a gift to our Savior does not mean you have to be perfect in everything right now but it does mean you need to do your very best. When you stumble, pick yourself back up, repent, and continue to move forward. Our Savior loves us and accepts any and every gift we give, no matter how small or humble it may be. As we give Christ the gift of ourselves, we will be the ones who are blessed.

The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents
but in *His* 
presence

FUN TIME

Bible Word Puzzle



Jesus was known by many different names. We've hidden 40 of them in this puzzle. Names may appear horizontally, vertically or diagonally, both backward and forward.

The solution appears on the next page.

Q	B	C	B	L	V	A	D	O	G	F	O	B	M	A	L	D	O	M	K
S	G	N	I	K	F	O	G	N	I	K	Y	D	R	T	J	R	Z	R	Y
T	Y	H	A	R	W	I	S	E	L	D	R	R	R	O	R	O	O	P	T
H	A	R	C	X	O	A	X	E	M	E	N	R	E	E	C	L	Q	H	H
E	W	E	C	N	V	O	U	A	R	O	N	A	M	T	E	K	G	H	A
D	V	C	N	I	A	N	D	E	E	O	D	E	M	S	S	I	Z	H	D
R	S	E	O	E	A	R	V	M	I	T	E	N	N	F	L	A	I	P	U
E	B	R	R	M	R	I	B	T	E	D	A	U	A	P	O	G	M	R	J
H	D	E	M	L	L	A	C	C	E	D	O	C	R	A	H	N	E	K	F
P	A	E	L	E	A	E	Z	R	O	C	I	I	O	P	H	T	O	M	O
E	E	M	D	O	R	S	C	A	W	R	N	A	R	V	N	P	O	S	N
H	R	C	E	R	V	S	T	O	N	C	N	I	T	E	D	R	L	S	O
S	B	R	U	S	N	E	R	I	E	F	E	E	P	O	N	A	O	A	I
M	P	S	P	S	S	D	D	O	N	S	N	R	R	I	R	N	A	C	L
Z	E	D	Z	E	Q	I	F	S	T	G	A	E	N	S	O	L	H	R	E
R	R	Y	I	R	G	P	A	I	O	C	W	G	S	F	T	R	G	V	Y
X	M	L	U	V	E	R	B	H	K	N	S	I	G	O	I	O	I	B	Y
N	O	I	T	A	D	N	U	O	F	T	P	O	Z	S	H	N	N	P	E
V	K	F	C	N	Z	X	L	D	A	O	D	Z	T	I	E	C	F	E	C
R	K	E	Q	T	E	H	P	R	X	Y	T	H	G	I	M	L	A	E	O

ADVOCATE - ALMIGHTY - ALPHA AND OMEGA - BELOVED SON - BRANCH - BREAD
CARPENTER - CHOSEN - CHRIST - CORNERSTONE - COUNSELOR - DELIVERER - DOOR
EMMANUEL - EVERLASTING - FOUNDATION - HIGH PRIEST - KING OF KINGS
LAMB OF GOD - LIFE - LIGHT - LION OF JUDAH - LORD - MASTER - MEDIATOR
MESSIAH - MORNING STAR - NAZARENE - PRINCE OF PEACE - REDEEMER
RESURRECTION - ROCK - SAVIOR - SERVANT - SHEPHERD - SON OF MAN
SON OF GOD - VINE - WAY - WORD



*If you look for
Me at Christmas*

*You won't need a special star –
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.
You may not be aware of Me
Amid the celebrations –
You'll have to look beyond the
stores*

And all the decorations.

But if you take a moment

From your list of things to do

And listen to your heart,

*You'll find I'm waiting just for
you.*

You're the one I want to be with,

You're the reason that I came,

And you'll find Me in the stillness

As I'm whispering your name.

Love,

Jesus

**Our Families & Friends
The Sick & Shut-In
The Homeless and Hungry
Those in Prisons
Pastors and Churches
Our Leaders
Teachers and school staff
Our Children and Youth
Doctors & Nurses
Firemen
Policemen**



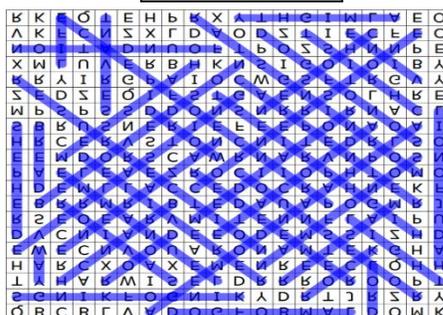
Lilla Howard and
Deacon Kenneth
(Minister Donna) Otis
bereaved in the passing of
their sister-in-law and
aunt, Annie Ruth Wilson

Evelyn Winfrey bereaved
in the passing of her
niece, Caroline Milligan

Cheryl Woods bereaved
in the passing of her
father-in-law Eli Stewart

Hattie Scott bereaved in
the passing of her
husband Tillman Scott

PUZZLE SOLUTION





WISHING YOU THE
Spirit of Christmas
WHICH IS
Peace

THE
Blessing of Christmas
WHICH IS
Hope

FROM THE
Heart of Christmas
WHICH IS
Christ

NEW COVENANT M.B. CHURCH
754 E. 77TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60619
MRS. JOYCE THURSTON, CHRISTIAN ED. DIR.
REV. STEPHEN J. THURSTON, PASTOR